



# ABINGDON

## Curriculum Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the curriculum documents for Lower School, Middle School and the Sixth Form, each of which gives much greater detail about the curricular provision at each level. Also relevant are the PSHE and Other Half policies and documents, which demonstrate other key ways in which the necessary curricular areas are addressed at Abingdon.

The points below outline Abingdon's curricular provision in relation to the DCSF Regulations Standard 1 (Curriculum), pursuant to the Education Act 2002 and its subsequent amendments.

Abingdon's curriculum provides for the following:

**1. the full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age, which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education**

English, Mathematics, the three Sciences and one Modern Foreign Language are taught as compulsory subjects (the "Core") from Year 7 to GCSE level. DT, Art, RS, Geography and History are compulsory in years 7 to 9 and become options thereafter. Latin, Drama and Music are compulsory in years 7&8 and become options for years 9 to 11. Other options for year 9 and above are Greek, Electronics, Classical Civilisation and a second or third Modern Foreign Language. Alongside the classroom curriculum, all boys have a programme of compulsory PE and sport up to year 11.

**2. Subject matter appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of pupils, including those pupils with a statement**

In years 7, 8 and 9 Abingdon provides a broad-based, challenging and appropriate curriculum suited to its typical intake of pupils, which tends to be of high ability and potential. In years 10 and 11, Abingdon follows GCSE and iGCSE courses and in years 12 and 13, AS and A2 courses are pursued. In many subjects, across the school, boys are setted by ability to enable the provision of sensible differentiation. Abingdon currently has no pupils with a statement, but does have a number of boys receiving Learning Support help. In the event of a statemented pupil being admitted to the school, Abingdon would undertake to ensure the curriculum delivered was appropriate to the needs of that pupil, utilising the resources available in our well staffed Learning Support Department.

**3. pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy**

Boys follow compulsory English and Mathematics courses to the end of year 11, and also acquire these skills through the great range of subjects and teaching on offer throughout the school.

**4. where the principal language of instruction is a language other than English, lessons in written and spoken English, except that this requirement shall not apply in respect of a school which provides education for pupils who are all temporarily resident in England and which follows the curriculum of another country;**

At Abingdon, the principal language of instruction is English.

**5. where a pupil has a statement, education which fulfils its requirements;**

Whilst Abingdon currently has no pupils with a statement, we undertake to ensure that a statemented pupil would be provided with an education that fulfilled the requirements of that statement.

**6. personal, social and health education which reflects the school's aims and ethos;**

Abingdon has a clear and carefully thought through PSHE programme and a teacher who has the specific responsibility for overseeing its delivery. The key ways this programme is delivered are through tutorial meetings, year group lectures and specifically focused seminar sessions. In years 9 and 10 PSHE is taught in specific lessons by subject specialists. In addition to this, in years 12 and 13, there is a programme of General Studies 'roundabouts' and option courses when specific topics (such as personal health, money management, drugs) are addressed in small group formats.

**7. appropriate careers guidance for pupils receiving secondary education;**

Abingdon has a Careers department with a teacher designated to oversee the provision in this area. She has an office within the Upper Sixth Study Hall with a larger Careers Room adjacent. ISCO testing is used for most boys in the Middle School (unless they opt out) with follow-up interviews and the great majority of boys are helped to undertake work experience in year 11. The master in charge of careers also speaks at assemblies and comments on subject choices at options times in conjunction with advice from tutors and teachers on appropriate GCSE and AS level choices. Additionally there is a yearly Careers Fair, in conjunction with three other Abingdon schools, giving year 11 boys the opportunity to meet professionals from a wide variety of careers. Given the great majority of Abingdon's year 11 continue with secondary education into years 12 and 13 and then continue into tertiary education, there is also a dedicated UCAS department which advises on university and course choice.

**8. where the school has pupils above compulsory school age, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their needs;**

Abingdon offers a wide range of AS and A levels in years 12 & 13 appropriate to the intellectual and practical interests and talents of its boys. Alongside this there is a General Studies programme designed to offer a broader view of society and a variety of issues, from the moral and social to the very practical, as well as offering opportunities for further intellectual extension. Within Abingdon's Other Half programme there are myriad opportunities for a Sixth Former to engage with intellectual, physical and practical pursuits complementary to the main curriculum.

**9. all pupils to have the opportunity to learn and make progress;**

At Abingdon all pupils, whatever their intellectual potential, EAL or LDD needs, are enabled to learn and make rapid progress, both through the formal academic curriculum as well as Abingdon's extensive Other Half (extra-curricular) provision. Boys' progress is monitored and formally commented on five times a year via the Reporting system and there are various other ways in which teachers and tutors follow the development of the boys and use assessment to inform future teaching and learning.

**10. adequate preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.**

Abingdon's curriculum is more than adequate in its preparation of boys in this area. Intellectual, physical, social, moral, cultural and spiritual growth are clearly nurtured through the school's wide-ranging teaching provision at all levels as well as through the tutoring system, assemblies, chapel services and section-specific lectures. Many opportunities are given to boys to prepare themselves for adult life, from leadership opportunities in a great many areas of school life to the school's emphasis on the importance of service and charitable giving, both of time and effort as well as finance.

GM

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Other relevant or related policies and documents:

- PSHE schemes
- Other Half booklet
- Curriculum Documents for Lower School, Middle School and Sixth Form